



Candidate filing week in Kitsap County begins Monday

Chris Henry, Kitsap Sun Published 4:54 p.m. PT May 10, 2019



"I love voting" stickers. (Photo: Sam Greene/The Enquirer)

PORT ORCHARD — While state and national elections garner much attention, local elected officials in city governments, courts, schools, fire and utility districts make decisions that directly impact a community's quality of life.

Scores of elected offices in Kitsap County will be filled through voters' decisions in the Aug. 4 primary and Nov. 3 general election.

Candidates running for office in Kitsap will have from 9 a.m. Monday through 4 p.m. Friday to file their intent online with the Kitsap County Auditor.

Filing in person begins at 8 a.m. Monday and ends at 4:30 p.m. Friday at the Auditor's Office, 619 Division Street in Port Orchard.

Filing by mail opened April 29.

For information on taxing district boundaries (and for some positions director district boundaries), filing fees and other candidate guidelines, visit the auditor's website, <https://www.kitsapgov.com/auditor> (<https://www.kitsapgov.com/auditor/Pages/kitsap-candidate-filing.aspx>) and click on elections.

City of Port Orchard elections

Arguably one of the most high profile races this election cycle will be the Port Orchard mayor's seat. Incumbent Rob Putaansuu has announced he will run for a second term and has filed with the state's Public Disclosure Commission.

The election comes as a development group's ambitious plan for a [five-story project downtown](/story/news/local/2018/11/28/port-orchard-wa-downtown-community-center-proposed/2138302002/) take shape. The complex would house apartments, shops, a restaurant, a new library and community center. City officials have a say in the scope and design of the project, which is part of a city pilot program related to development regulations.

Last November: [Community center proposed in downtown Port Orchard](/story/news/local/2018/11/28/port-orchard-wa-downtown-community-center-proposed/2138302002/)

The city is in the midst of a number of high profile projects, including the Tremont Gateway project and the Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway. Less visible are public works projects underway and planned to keep up with the city's growth.

City council positions for districts 1, 4 and 5 are open for election, as is the at-large position. The incumbents are Shawn Cucciardi, John Clauson, Cindy Lucarelli and Jay Rosapepe

City of Bremerton positions

Three Bremerton City Council positions are up for election this year. [Leslie Daug](/story/news/local/2017/08/10/charges-against-bremerton-councilwoman-dismissed/557624001/) will try to defend her District 2 seat, which includes most of East Park from the Port Washington Narrows to Riddell Road east of Wheaton Way. Daug has served on the City Council since 2011.

Councilman Richard Huddy's District 6 seat is also up for election. Huddy, who was [censured by the council](/story/news/local/2018/12/20/bremerton-councilman-censured-investigation-into-conduct-women/2373684002/) last year after an investigation found he acted "overly familiar" with teenagers, has not announced if he will run again. Candidate Anna Mockler has filed with the PDC for the District 6 seat. District 6 spans Anderson Cove to Marine Drive.

Newest seat filled: [Former attorney appointed to vacated Bremerton city council seat](/story/news/local/2019/01/10/former-attorney-appointed-vacated-bremerton-city-council-seat/2530202002/)

Bremerton's newest city council member, Lori Wheat, [was chosen in January](/story/news/local/2019/01/10/former-attorney-appointed-vacated-bremerton-city-council-seat/2530202002/) to fill the seat left by former councilman Tony Hillman. Wheat, a former attorney, has said she plans to run for election. She represents Bremerton's District 4, which includes Olympic College, the Union Hill neighborhood and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Bainbridge Island and Poulsbo elections

Four seats on the Bainbridge Island City Council are up for election. Councilman Ron Peltier has announced he won't run to retain his at-large seat, and two candidates, islanders Anthony Oddo and Kirsten Hytopoulos, have filed with the state's Public Disclosure Commission as running for that seat.

Councilmembers Kol Medina (North Ward), Leslie Schneider (Central Ward) and Sarah Blossom (South Ward) have filed with the PDC to run as incumbents.

Five seats on the Poulsbo City Council will be up for votes: positions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7, seats currently held by Ken Thomas, Connie Lord, Gary Nystul, Jeff McGinty and Abby Garland. Thomas announced previously that he doesn't plan to run for re-election.

Elections for school districts

Twenty school board director positions are open in districts throughout Kitsap and North Mason counties. All are four-year terms, except two, two-year unexpired terms, one each in North Kitsap and Bainbridge Island school districts.

Part of North Mason School District's boundary lies within Kitsap, so the election includes some Kitsap residents. The rural district serves just more than 2,000 students. Positions open for election in North Mason are districts 1, 3 and 4.

Bremerton a, urban district of just more than 5,000 students has openings on the school board for director positions 1, 2 and 3.

Bainbridge Island, with nearly 4,000 students, is facing budget challenges despite the district's relative affluence. With enrollment falling, the district in April announced a reduction in force of 17 positions, all but one or two of which will be achieved through attrition. Four-year school board positions open on Bainbridge are for districts 1, 3 and 4.

More: [Bainbridge Island School District board member resigns](/story/news/local/communities/bainbridge-islander/2019/04/23/bainbridge-island-school-district-board-member-resigns/3543161002/)

The Bainbridge District 5 position was vacated in April when [Sheila Jakubik \(/story/news/local/communities/bainbridge-islander/2019/04/23/bainbridge-island-school-district-board-member-resigns/3543161002/\)](https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/local/communities/bainbridge-islander/2019/04/23/bainbridge-island-school-district-board-member-resigns/3543161002/) resigned. The board will appoint a temporary director who will serve until after the election. The person elected will serve two years, the remainder of Jakubik's term.

North Kitsap School District, with around 6,000 students, and South Kitsap, with around 9,500, are also facing budget shortfalls and like Bainbridge have proposed reducing staffing, mostly through attrition, to address falling enrollment and other budget pressures.

School board positions open in South Kitsap are for districts 1, 2 and 5.

Open positions in North Kitsap include districts 2, 4 and 5. The District 3 position is open for two years of an unexpired term. Beth Worthington has moved out of District 3 but not out of the school district, so under state law, she can serve until after the election when a new director is certified and sworn in.

Central Kitsap, with more than 11,000 students, is the largest school district in Kitsap County. The district is wrapping up construction from a \$220 million bond. Positions open in Central Kitsap include districts 2, 3 and 4.

Other positions

Kitsap County Superior Court judge position 2 is open for one year of an unexpired term.

The Port of Bremerton has an opening in the District 2 commissioner position currently held by Larry Stokes.

The ballot includes multiple openings in fire districts, other port districts (some of them tiny), park, sewer and water districts.

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